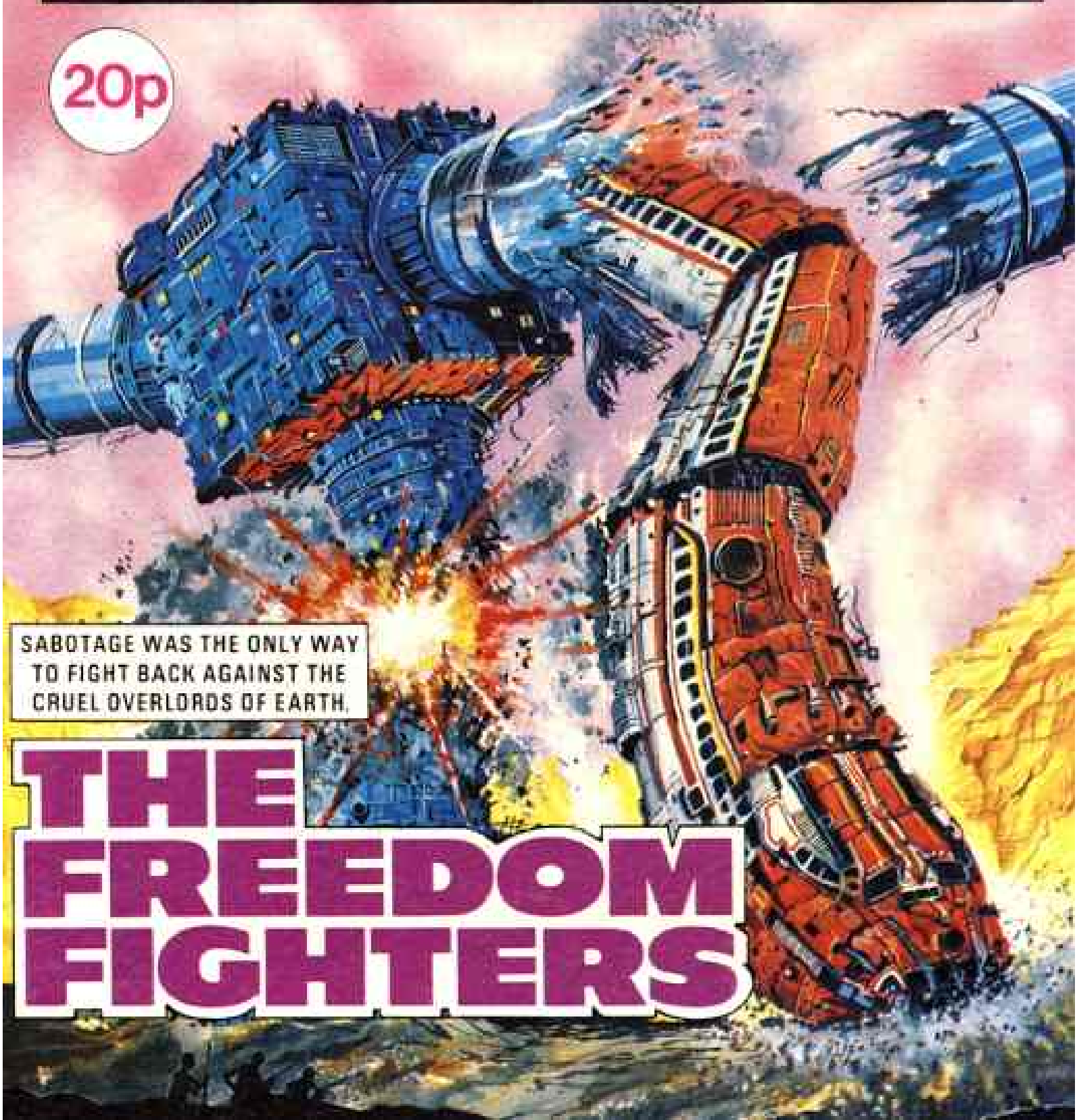
STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 118

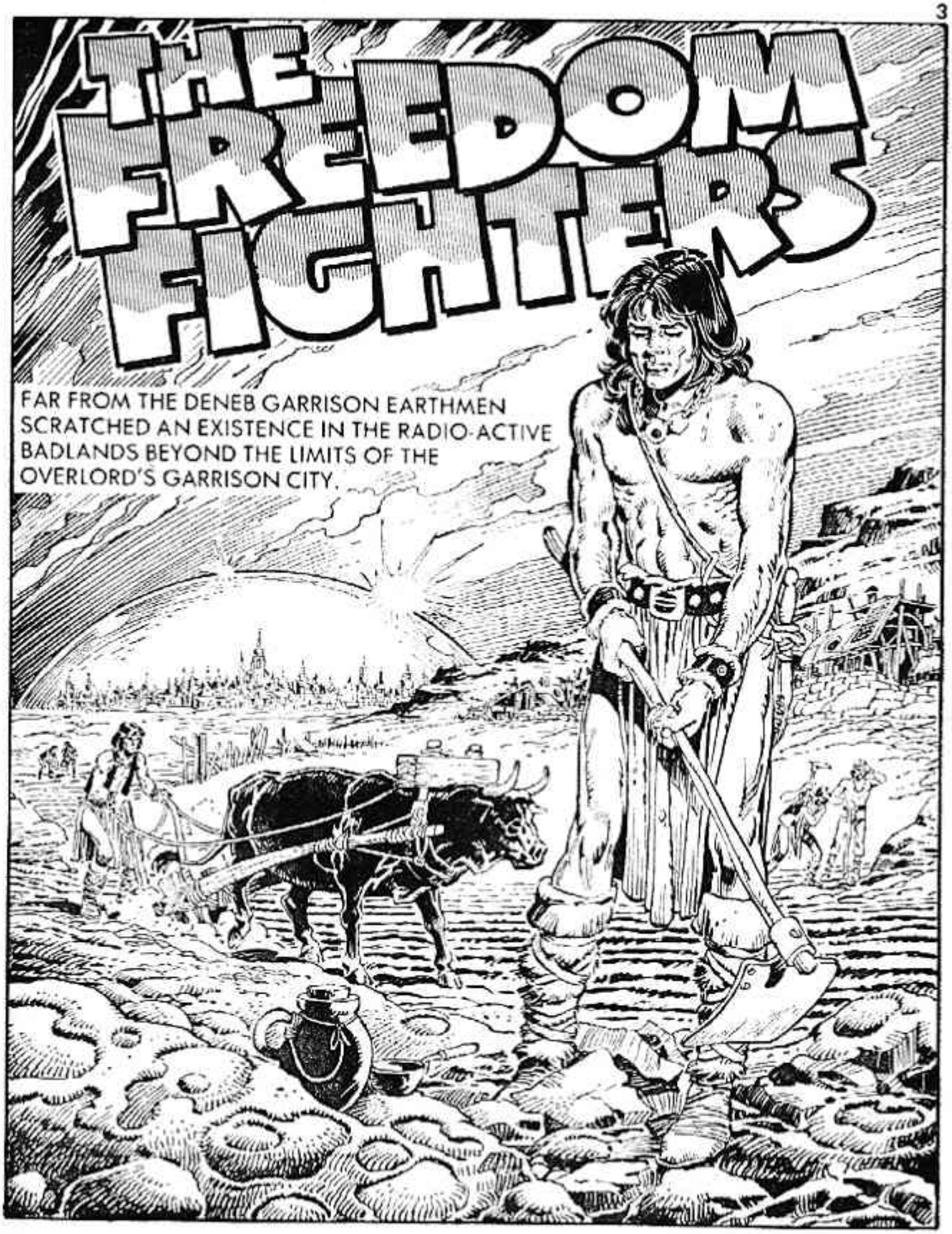
20p



SABOTAGE WAS THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE CRUEL OVERLORDS OF EARTH.

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

AFTER THE NUCLEAR DEVASTATION OF SOL III IN 2384, EARTH WAS OCCUPIED BY AN ALIEN RACE, THE DENEB. BOTH SIDES HAD RESORTED TO NUCLEAR WARFARE, WHICH LEFT THE LANDSCAPE A RADIATION-RAVAGED WASTELAND. THE INVADERS DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE DESOLATION, ALL THEY REQUIRED FROM EARTH WAS A STOPPING-OFF PLACE FOR THEIR STARSHIP BATTLE-FLEETS. A LARGE ALIEN GARRISON WAS ESTABLISHED WITHIN A PROTECTIVE FORCE-DOME, WHILE THE SURVIVING EARTHMEN WERE LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES IN THE RADIO-ACTIVE WILDERNESS. ALL RESISTANCE AND FIGHT WAS BEATEN OUT OF THE SURVIVING EARTH PEOPLE WHO WERE LEFT IN ABJECT POVERTY TO SCRAPE A LIVING, UNTIL ALONG CAME—


THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
FAR FROM THE DENEB GARRISON EARTHMEN SCRATCHED AN EXISTENCE IN THE RADIO-ACTIVE BADLANDS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE OVERLORD'S GARRISON CITY.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE LABOURERS RETURNED TO THEIR VILLAGE — EXHAUSTED.
THERE MUST BE MORE TO LIFE THAN WORKING MERELY TO LIVE — BUT THE VILLAGE ELDERS ASSURE US THERE ISN'T.
SOME, LIKE THE YOUNG FIELDER, PONDERED ABOUT THEIR SEEMINGLY POINTLESS LIVES.
THE ALIEN OVERLORD HAD ESTABLISHED HALLS OF TECHNOLOGY WITHIN THE SETTLEMENTS, WHERE FORCES BEYOND THE EARTHMEN'S COMPREHENSION KEPT THEM IN A CONSTANT STATE OF FEAR.

THE TECHNOPRIESTS, EARTH SERVANTS OF THE ALIEN DENEB, WERE WELL REWARDED FOR KEEPING THE PEASANTS UNDER CONTROL..
GOOD NEWS, MEN OF THE SOIL! I HAVE WORD THAT THE LORD OF HIGH-TECHNOLOGY IS PLEASED WITH YOUR EFFORTS IN THE FIELDS TODAY.

THE HOLOGRAM WAS MAGIC TO THE IGNORANT PEASANTS, AND THAT IGNORANCE NURTURED FEAR.
WORK WELL, WORK HARD, AND I WILL ALLOW YOU TO LIVE A LITTLE LONGER.
WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU GREAT TECHNOLOGICAL-ONE.

I'VE SEEN ALL THIS BEFORE, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN BEHIND THE DOOR THE PRIEST COMES OUT OF.

EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR EYES ON THE DISPLAY, SO I'VE NOT BEEN NOTICED.

THIS MUST BE A PLACE OF POWER, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT.

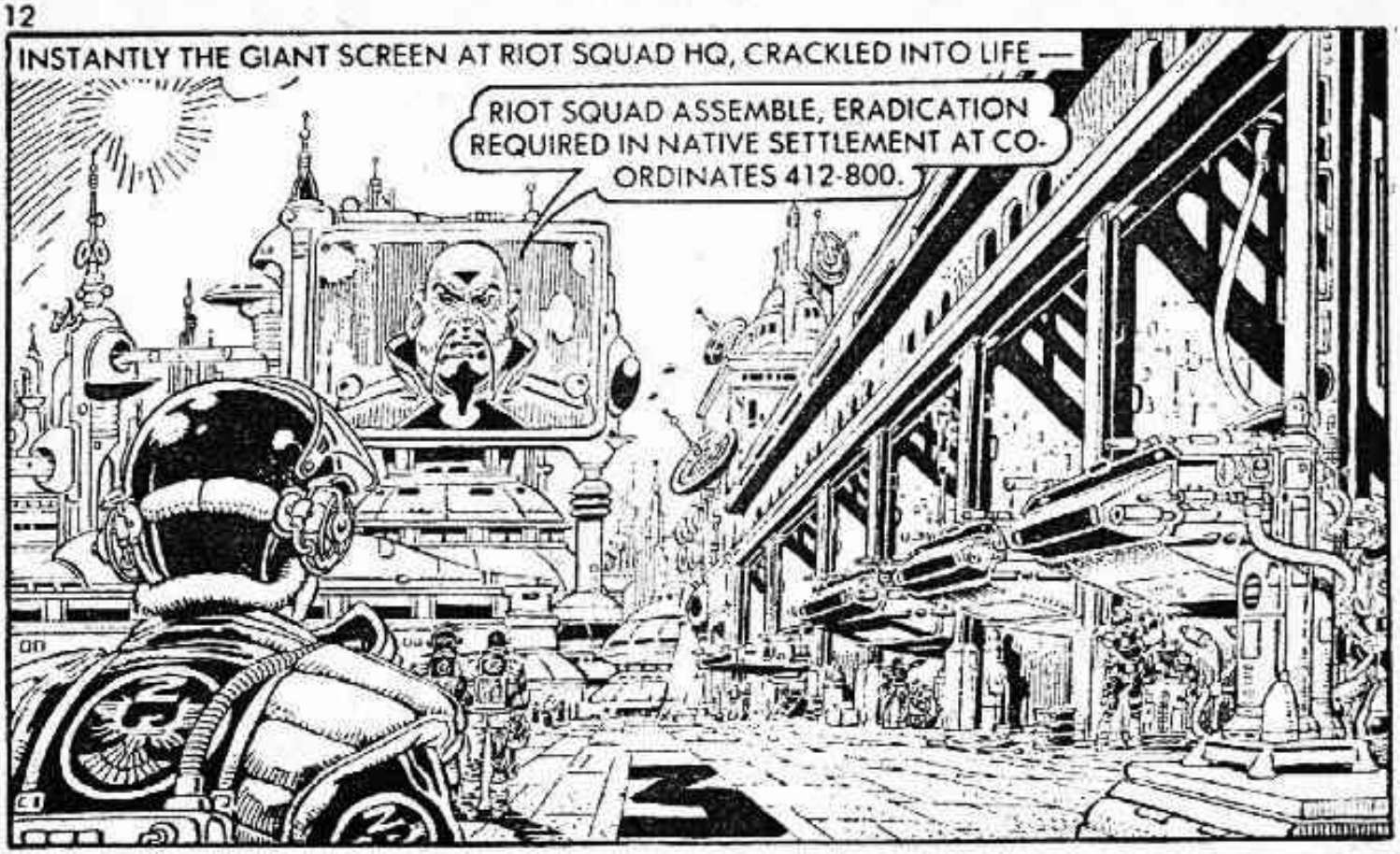
FIELDER'S CURIOSITY WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERCOME HIS FEAR.
IT MAKES A NOISE —
EVIL — THEY HISS AT ME.

DIE!
FIELDER'S PRIMITIVE REACTION TO THE UNKNOWN CAUSED AN ELECTRIC SHOCK TO STUN HIM. THE RESULTING SHORT CIRCUIT SENT THE MACHINE INTO " RETRIEVE MODE " . . .

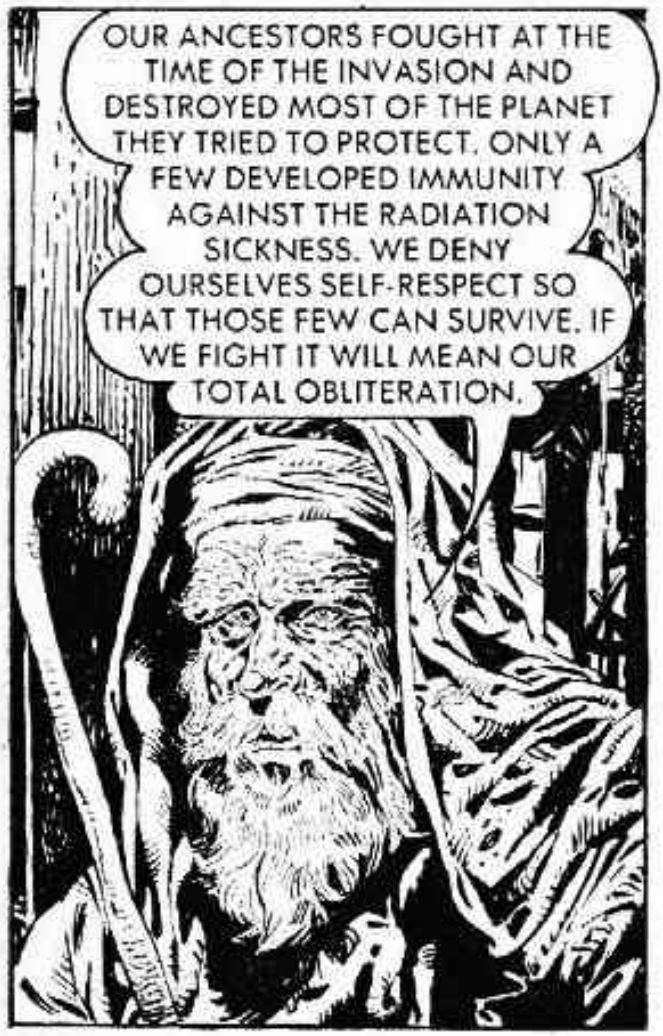
BY A MILLION-TO-ONE CHANCE, THE IMPULSES BEING TRANSMITTED BY THE MACHINE WERE ON EXACTLY THE SAME FREQUENCY AS THE NEURAL PULSES IN FIELDER'S BRAIN. FIELDER'S NERVOUS SYSTEM WAS ACTING LIKE A TAPE RECORDER AND RELAYING ALL THE STORED INFORMATION TO HIS BRAIN. THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF LEARNING WERE BEING DEPOSITED IN FIELDER'S BRAIN IN SECONDS.
THE HIGH-LORD OF TECHNOLOGY WILL DESTROY YOU FOR THIS INTRUSION INTO HIS SECRET PLACES.
YOU DON'T FOOL ME ANY MORE WITH YOUR MUMBO-JUMBO, YOU TRAITOR!

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!
I NOW KNOW YOUR STAFF IS A MICRO-PROCESSOR WITH VARIED CAPABILITIES, INCLUDING VIBRATIONS TO FREEZE YOUR MIND AND BODY.

AT A CRITICAL MOMENT THE TRANSMIT LINK WITH THE ALIEN OVERLORD WENT LIVE —
WHAT IS HAPPENING? WHO ARE YOU?
I AM FIELDER — THE PERSON WHO IS GOING TO DRIVE YOU FROM MY HOME.
RIOT SQUAD ASSEMBLE, ERADICATION REQUIRED IN NATIVE SETTLEMENT AT CO-ORDINATES 412-800.


INSTANTLY THE GIANT SCREEN AT RIOT SQUAD HQ, CRACKLED INTO LIFE —
RIOT SQUAD ASSEMBLE, ERADICATION REQUIRED IN NATIVE SETTLEMENT AT CO-ORDINATES 412-800.

MEANWHILE, FIELDER REPORTED HIS DISCOVERY TO THE VILLAGE ELDER, BUT HIS NEWS DID NOT CAUSE QUITE THE EXCITEMENT HE EXPECTED IT TO DO.
WE ARE BEING KEPT IN SLAVERY AND POVERTY SO THAT WE CAN NEVER BE STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT OUR ENEMY.
YES, I KNOW.


OUR ANCESTORS FOUGHT AT THE TIME OF THE INVASION AND DESTROYED MOST OF THE PLANET THEY TRIED TO PROTECT. ONLY A FEW DEVELOPED IMMUNITY AGAINST THE RADIATION SICKNESS. WE DENY OURSELVES SELF-RESPECT SO THAT THOSE FEW CAN SURVIVE. IF WE FIGHT IT WILL MEAN OUR TOTAL OBLITERATION.

A FRIGHTENED MESSENGER INTERRUPTED THE ELDER —
SIRE, A FLYING VISITATION IS HEADING OUR WAY FROM THE CITY. WHAT MUST WE DO — THE PRIEST DOES NOT ANSWER OUR CALL?
WE MUST HIDE IN THE BADLANDS.
NO, WE MUST FIGHT!

THE VILLAGERS GATHERED FOR GUIDANCE —
WE MUST FLEE . . .
THAT IS THE ELDER'S WAY, WE MUST FIGHT THE OVERLORDS — WE MUST RECLAIM OUR LANDS — FIGHT BY MY SIDE.

ONLY A HANDFUL ANSWERED THE CALL —
FOLLOW ME! THERE'S MATERIAL TO FIGHT WITH HIDDEN IN THE PRIEST'S UNDERGROUND ROOM.

BY THE TIME THE FLYING VISITATION DESCENDED, THE VILLAGE APPEARED TO BE DESERTED.
MAKE SURE YOUR SUITS ARE FASTENED. WE CAN'T SURVIVE THE RADIATION LEVELS THESE NATIVES LIVE IN.

RAZE THE VILLAGE TO THE GROUND.

FIELDER LAUNCHED A COUNTER ATTACK —
ACID!! PRIMITIVE, BUT IT SHOULD CAUSE A BIT OF UPROAR.

THE MAKESHIFT MISSILES FOUND THEIR TARGET.
MY SUIT — IT DISAPPEARS — I WILL BE EXPOSED TO RADIATION.
ONE MISSILE LANDED ON THE ALIEN TROOP-CARRYING PLATFORM.

THE ACID REACTED WITH THE IONISED GAS PROPULSION SYSTEM AND THE ANTI-GRAV SLED ERUPTED —

THE DENSE SMOKE FROM THE BURNING TROOP-CARRIER PROVIDED EFFECTIVE COVER FOR FIELDER AND HIS COMPANIONS —
LET NONE ESCAPE! GATHER WEAPONS AND WE SHALL FLEE.

WITH A CRAFT MISSING IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THE OVERLORD WAS INFORMED OF THE INCIDENT.
BY THE TIME THE SECOND FORCE WAS SENT, THE WHOLE AREA WAS DESERTED.
FIELDER — THIS IS HIS DOING! FIND THE PEASANT — QUICKLY!!

MY FORCES ARE WEAK! THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL HAS DEPRIVED MY GARRISON OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO FEED THEIR WARS ELSEWHERE. I MUST CRUSH THIS SLUG BEFORE HE HAS TIME TO ORGANISE FORCES AGAINST ME.

FIELDER HAD HEARD OF MORE MILITANTLY MINDED EARTHMEN LIVING IN THE HILLS AWAY FROM THE ALIEN GARRISON CITY. HE DECIDED THEY WERE HIS BEST HOPE FOR HELP IN FIGHTING THE OVERLORD.
ONCE WE'RE SAFELY OUT OF RANGE OF THE GARRISON'S LOOKOUTS, I'LL TRAIN YOU ALL TO USE THE WEAPONS WE CAPTURED.

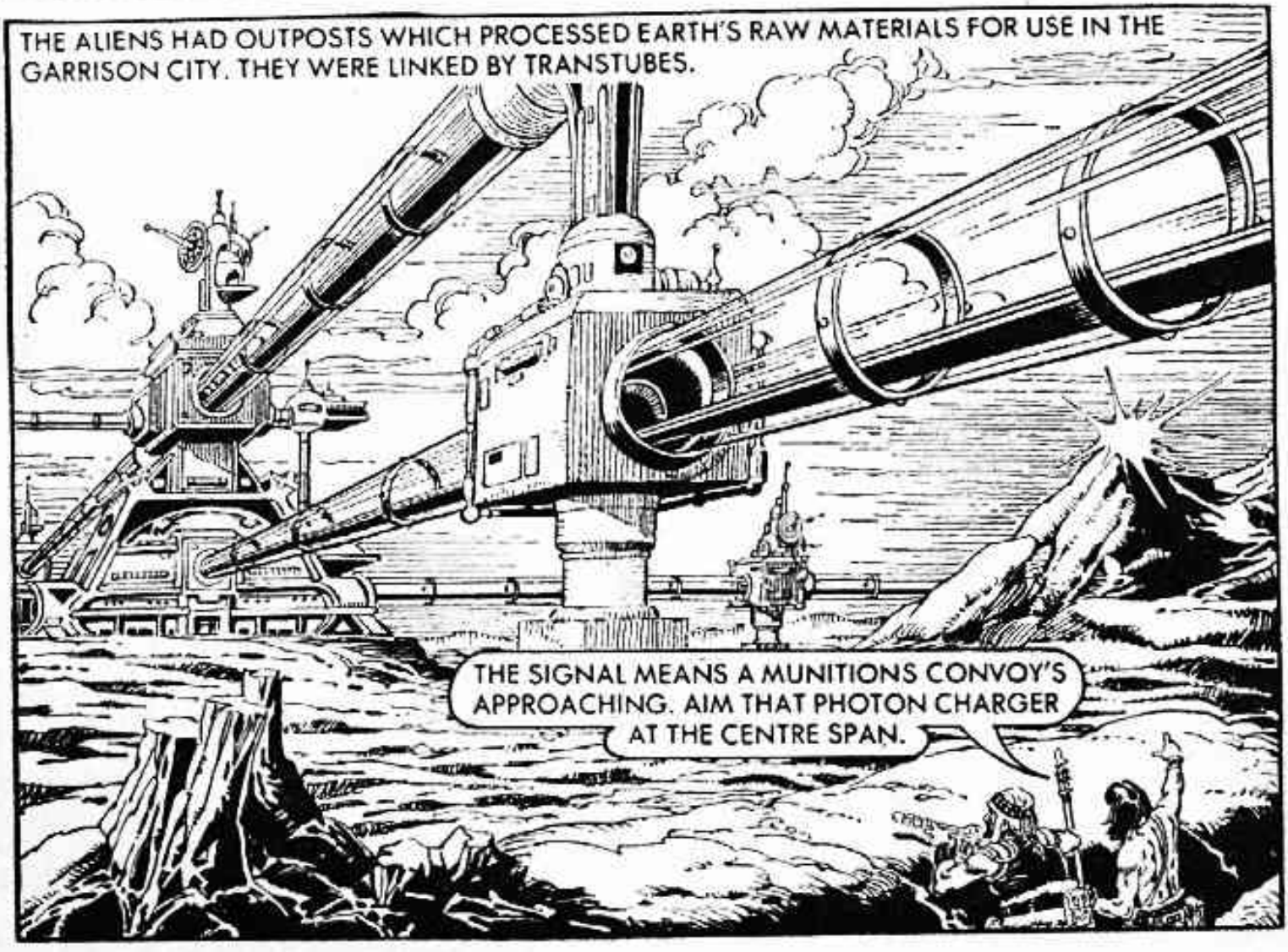
HIGH IN THE HILLS, REBEL EYES WATCHED EVERY MOVE —
THEY'RE PLAINSMEN! FIELDERS AND CUTTERS BY LOOKING AT THEM.
WHAT DO THEY WANT HERE?

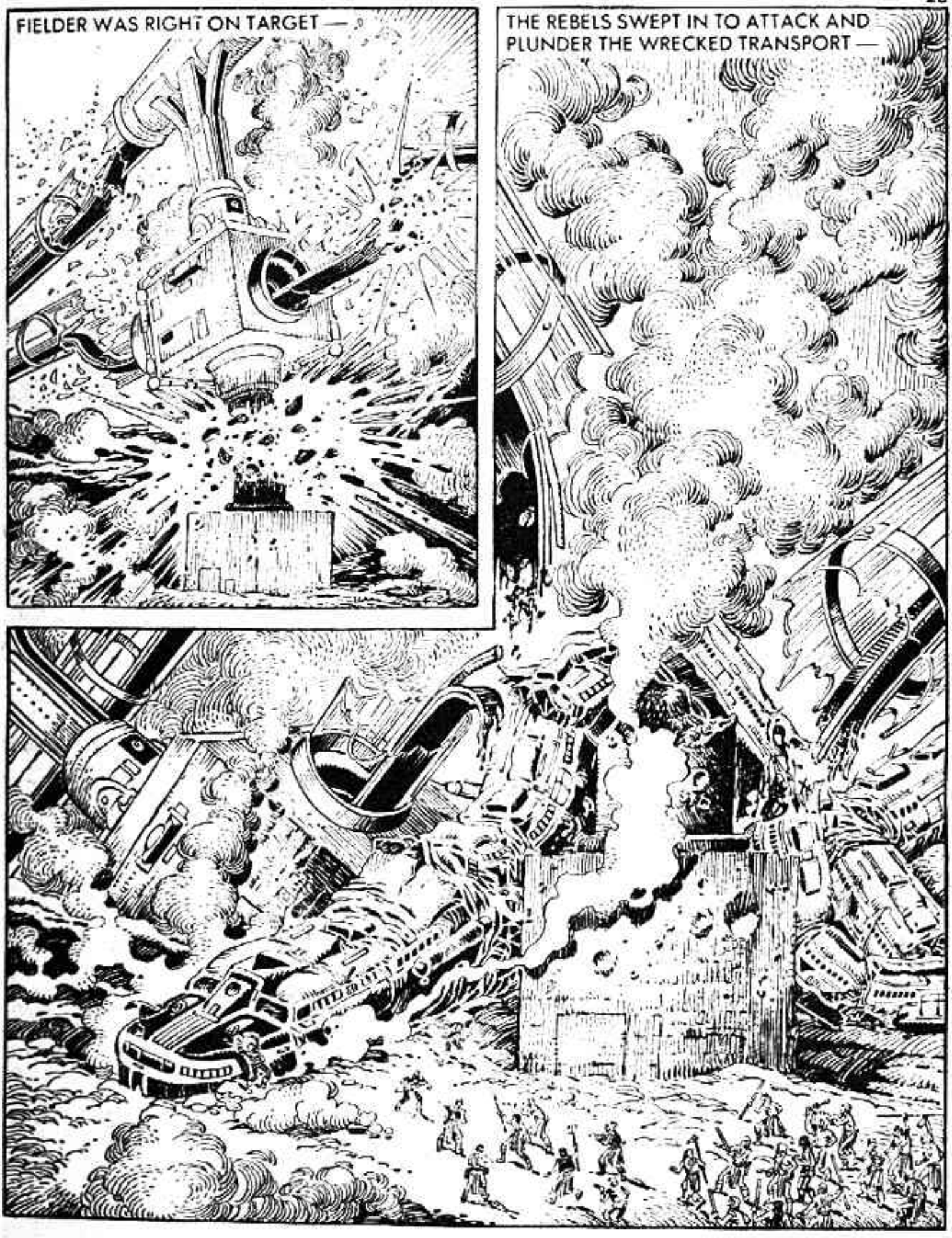
THE REBELS DID NOT LIKE MIXING WITH OTHERS, AND TOOK STEPS TO HALT THE PLAINSMEN —
LOOK OUT!

THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT. THERE ARE MEN UP THERE ON THE HILLSIDE.

GO BACK TO YOUR VILLAGE! OR THE NEXT ROCKFALL WILL SPLIT YOUR SKULLS!
IF YOU WISH, BUT WE HAVE ALIEN WEAPONS FOR YOU.
THE HILLMEN EXAMINED THE CAPTURED WEAPONS
SO YOU PLAINSMEN CAN FIGHT!
JUST BECAUSE WE ARE NAMED AFTER OUR TASKS DOES NOT MEAN WE CANNOT FIGHT.

AFTER INTENSIVE TRAINING, THE FIGHTING HILLMEN WERE READY FOR AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE OVERLORD.
THE OVERGROUND TRANSPORT TUBES BETWEEN THE MAIN GARRISON AND THE REGIONAL OUTPOSTS ARE OUR EASIEST TARGET.
THE FIRST PRIORITY IS TO CAPTURE MORE WEAPONS.


THE ALIENS HAD OUTPOSTS WHICH PROCESSED EARTH'S RAW MATERIALS FOR USE IN THE GARRISON CITY. THEY WERE LINKED BY TRANSTUBES.
THE SIGNAL MEANS A MUNITIONS CONVOY'S APPROACHING. AIM THAT PHOTON CHARGER AT THE CENTRE SPAN.


FIELDER WAS RIGHT ON TARGET —
THE REBELS SWEPT IN TO ATTACK AND PLUNDER THE WRECKED TRANSPORT —

AN INTACT HOVER-TRUCK WAS USED TO CARRY THE CAPTURED WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION BACK TO THE HIDEOUT IN THE HILLS.

WORD SPREAD OF THE RESISTANCE AND THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE OVERLORD. MEN WHO STILL HAD A FIGHTING SPIRIT IN THEM, LEFT THEIR VILLAGES TO TRY AND JOIN THE FREEDOM FORCE.

WATCH YOURSELF! IN THIS PART OF THE BADLANDS THE TREES DRIP ACID.
I AM IN NO TROUBLE, THANK YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN WOUNDED . . . HEY! THIS ISN'T FLESH IT'S . . . YOU'RE AN ANDROID!
YOU HAVE SEEN TOO MUCH, NATIVE!

IN THE DOME CITY —
THE NEXT VICTIM FOR MY ASSASSIN WILL BE FIELDER. THE ANDROID IS PROGRAMMED TO EXPLODE AS SOON AS IT SENSES HIS PRESENCE!
THE FREEDOM FORCE WAS BEGINNING TO BUILD UP THE RESERVE OF WEAPONS NEEDED TO CHALLENGE THE OVERLORD IN OPEN BATTLE.
WE ARE ALMOST STRONG ENOUGH. EACH DAY MORE MEN ARRIVE TO JOIN US.
YES! BUT ARE THEY ALL TRUSTWORTHY?
SIR, A NEW ARRIVAL HAS URGENT NEWS FOR YOU ABOUT A COUNTER-ATTACK BY THE OVERLORD.
POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION COMPLETED.

FIELDER'S SCEPTRE REACTED —
JUPE! AN ANDROID!

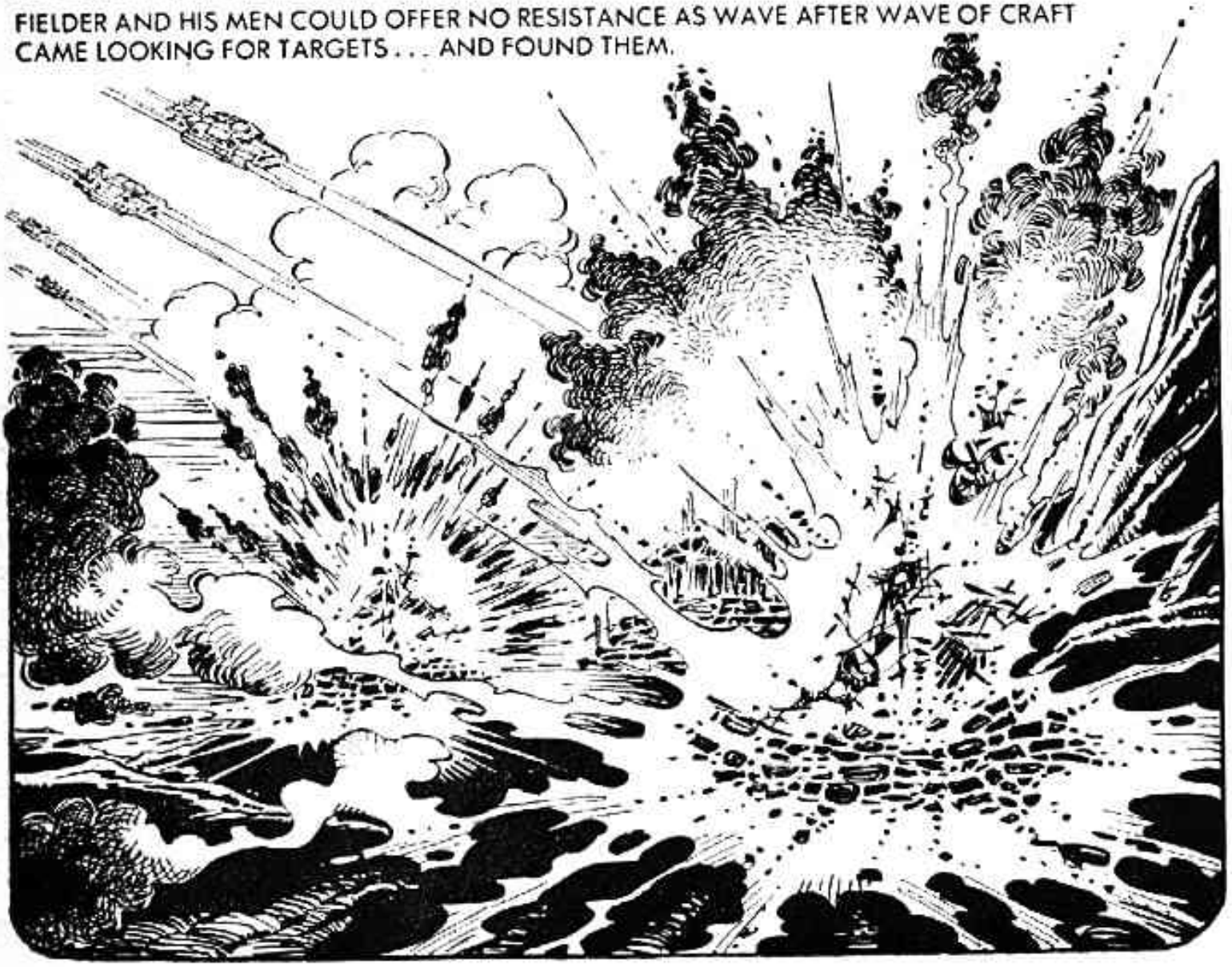
IT'S A BOMB! THE STAFF ONLY INDUCES A TEMPORARY POWER DRAIN. IF I DON'T FIND THE OFF SWITCH IN THIRTY SECONDS, THEN IT'S GOODBYE FREEDOM FORCE.

GOT IT, AND FIVE SECONDS TO SPARE.

BACK AT THE GARRISON CITY, THE OVERLORD MISINTERPRETED THE LOSS OF CONTACT WITH HIS ANDROID ASSASSIN.
FIELDER IS DEAD AND WE HAVE THE CO-ORDINATES OF HIS BASE.
I WILL LAUNCH AN IMMEDIATE AIR-STRIKE AND OBLITERATE ALL REMNANTS OF OPPOSITION TO OUR RULE.

ONCE THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL HEAR OF MY SUCCESS THEY MAY CONSIDER ME FOR A HIGHER POSITION — AWAY FROM THIS BACKWARD PLANET.

FIELDER AND HIS MEN COULD OFFER NO RESISTANCE AS WAVE AFTER WAVE OF CRAFT CAME LOOKING FOR TARGETS . . . AND FOUND THEM.



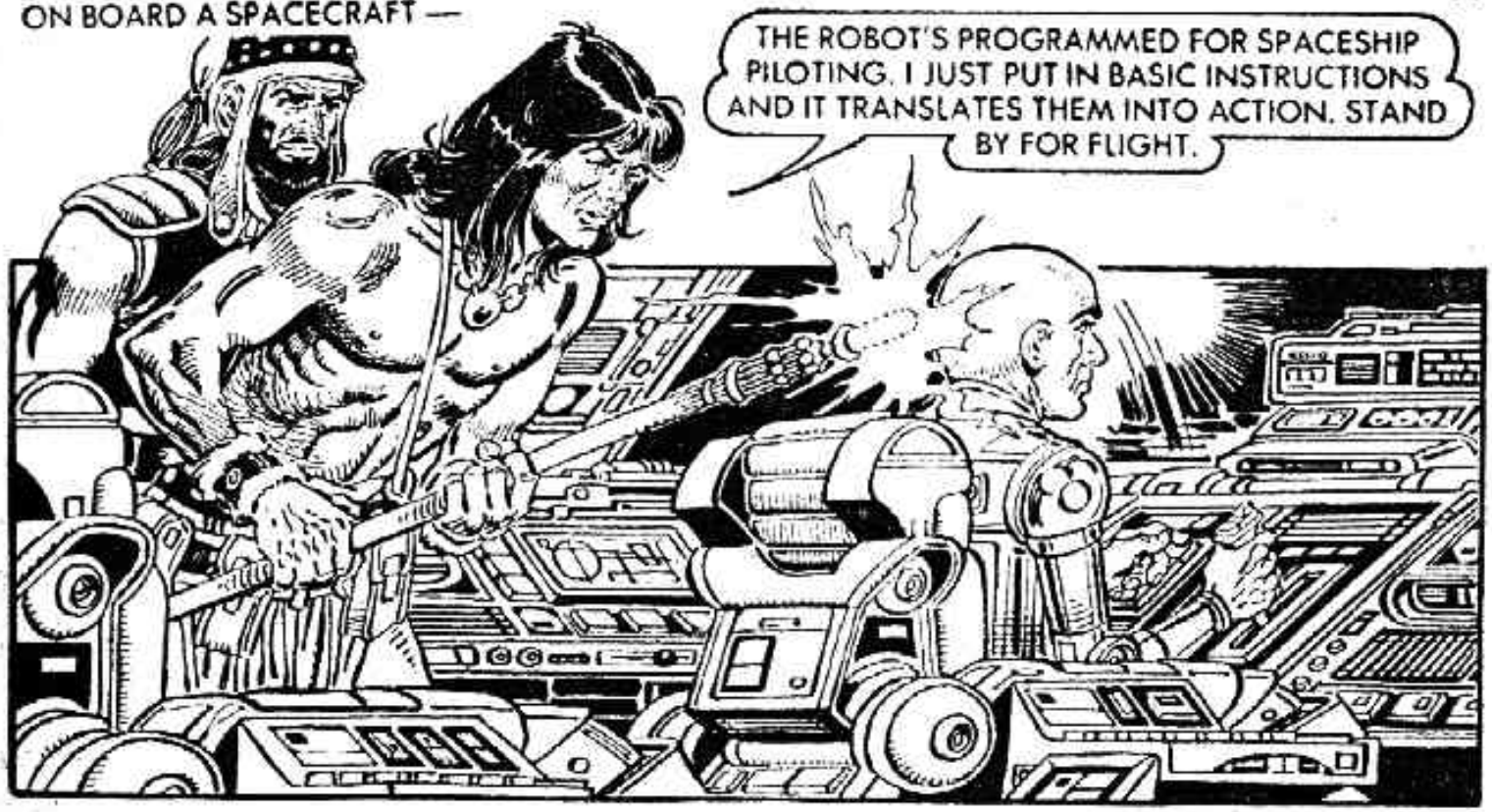
THAT'S THE WEAPON STORE GONE.

THE RAID ALL BUT DECIMATED THE FORCE.
NOT A BUILDING LEFT STANDING. WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED.
IT'S NOT QUITE SQUARE ONE — I THINK I CAN GET THIS ANDROID TO WORK ON OUR SIDE.

ONCE I REMOVED THE ASSASSINATION CIRCUIT, IT BECAME AN ALL-PURPOSE SERVO-ROBOT WHICH CAN BE POWERED AND CONTROLLED BY THE GADGETRY WITHIN THE STAFF. I'VE GOT AN IDEA HOW TO USE IT TO GET US BACK IN THE FIGHT.
BACK AT GARRISON CITY THE OVERLORD WELCOMED THE REPORT OF THE AIR ATTACK.
A SUCCESSFUL ATTACK, BUT THE RAID HAS LEFT US SHORT OF PHOTON CHARGES FOR OUR WEAPONS UNTIL THE NEXT IMPERIAL SUPPLY SHIP ARRIVES.

BELIEVING THE RESISTANCE TO HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT, SECURITY WAS LAX AT THE SPACE PORT.
WE SHOULD REACH A SPACE SHIP UNOPPOSED.

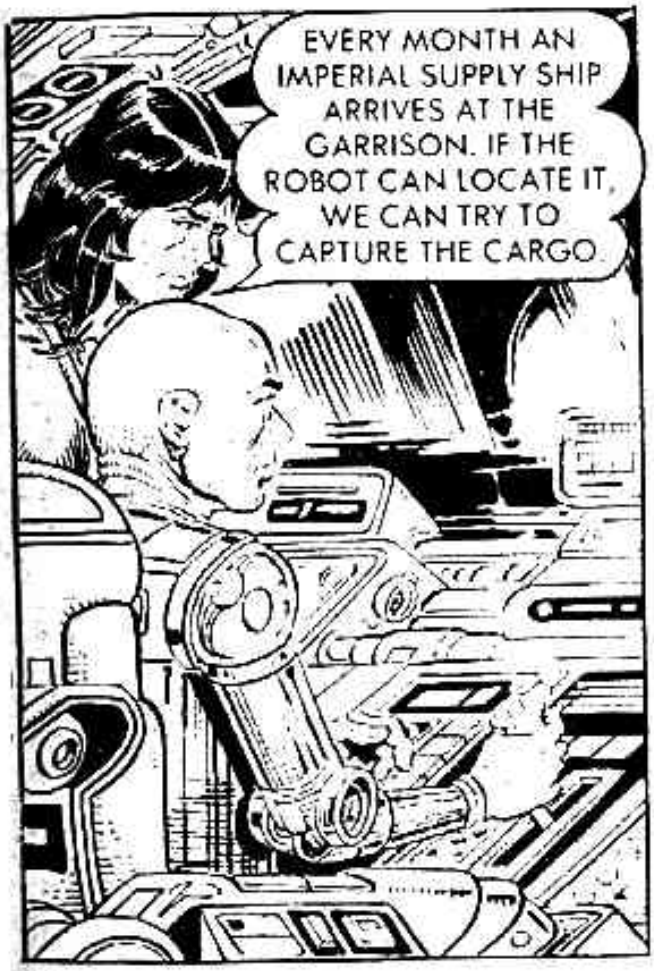
BE CAREFUL WITH THE ANDROID, IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT.


ON BOARD A SPACECRAFT —
THE ROBOT'S PROGRAMMED FOR SPACESHIP PILOTING. I JUST PUT IN BASIC INSTRUCTIONS AND IT TRANSLATES THEM INTO ACTION. STAND BY FOR FLIGHT.

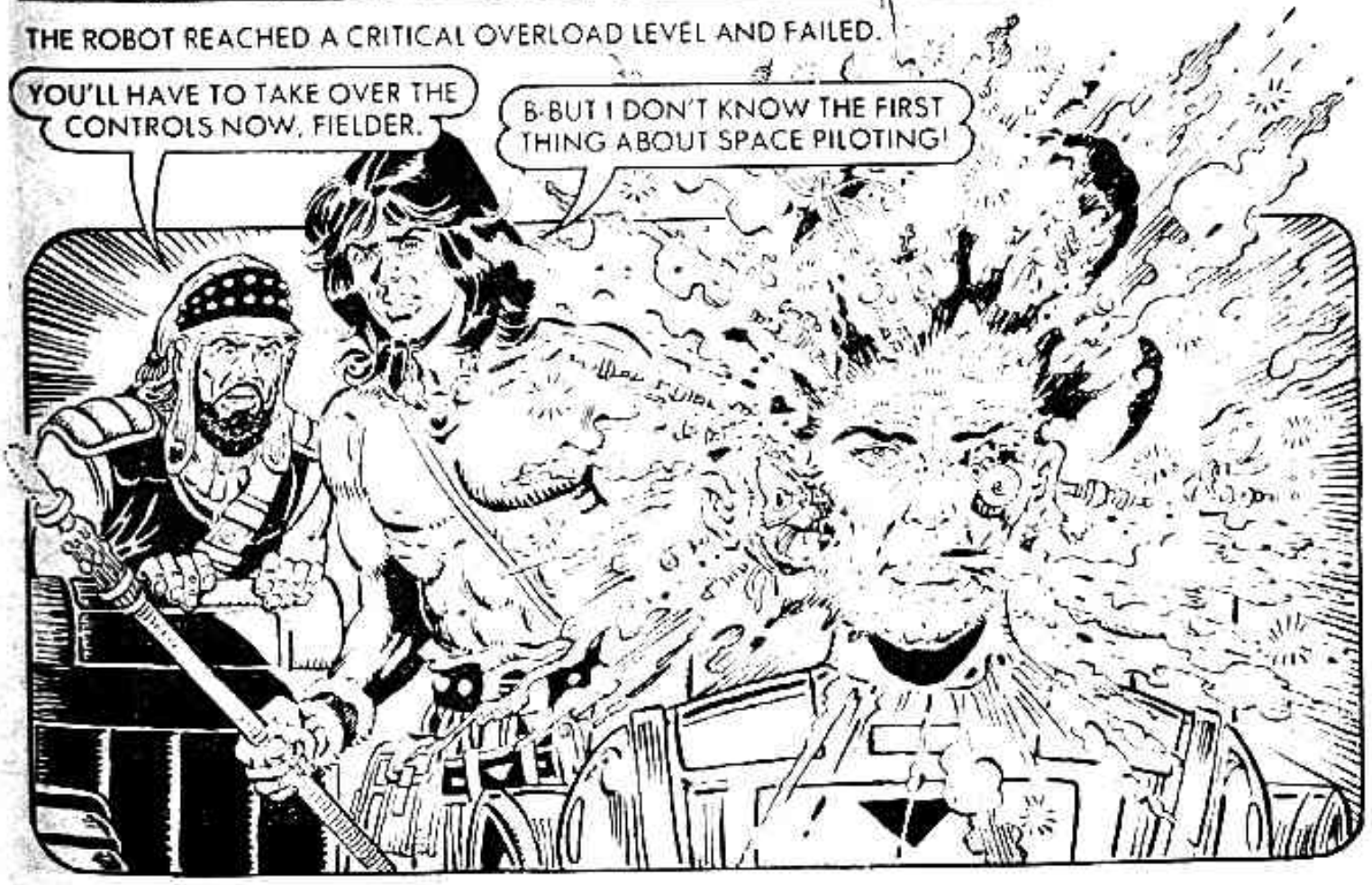
THE ROBOT COMPLETED COUNTDOWN CHECKS THEN FIRED THE MAIN DRIVE UNIT.

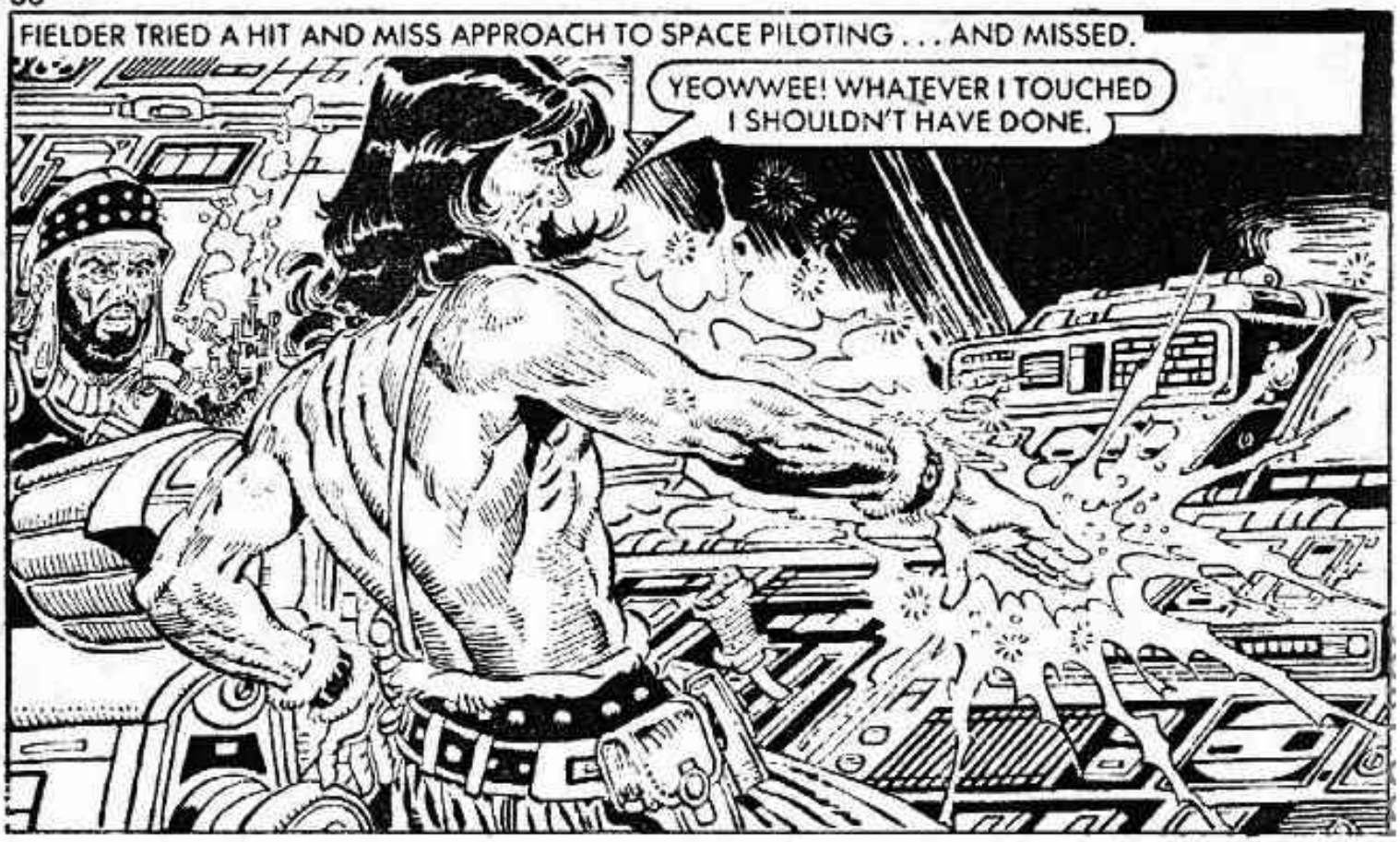
WHO'S THE IDIOT WHO'S GONE OFF ON A JOY RIDE?

AS THE ALIENS TRIED TO MAKE SENSE OF THE IMPOSSIBLE IDEA OF A PRIMITIVE NATIVE BEING ABLE TO HI-JACK A SPACESHIP, THE NATIVES WERE MARVELLING AT THEIR FIRST VIEW OF EARTH FROM SPACE.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT EARTH IS! WE MUST CLEAR THE ALIEN SCUM FROM OUR PLANET AND ONCE MORE MAKE IT OURS TO ENJOY.



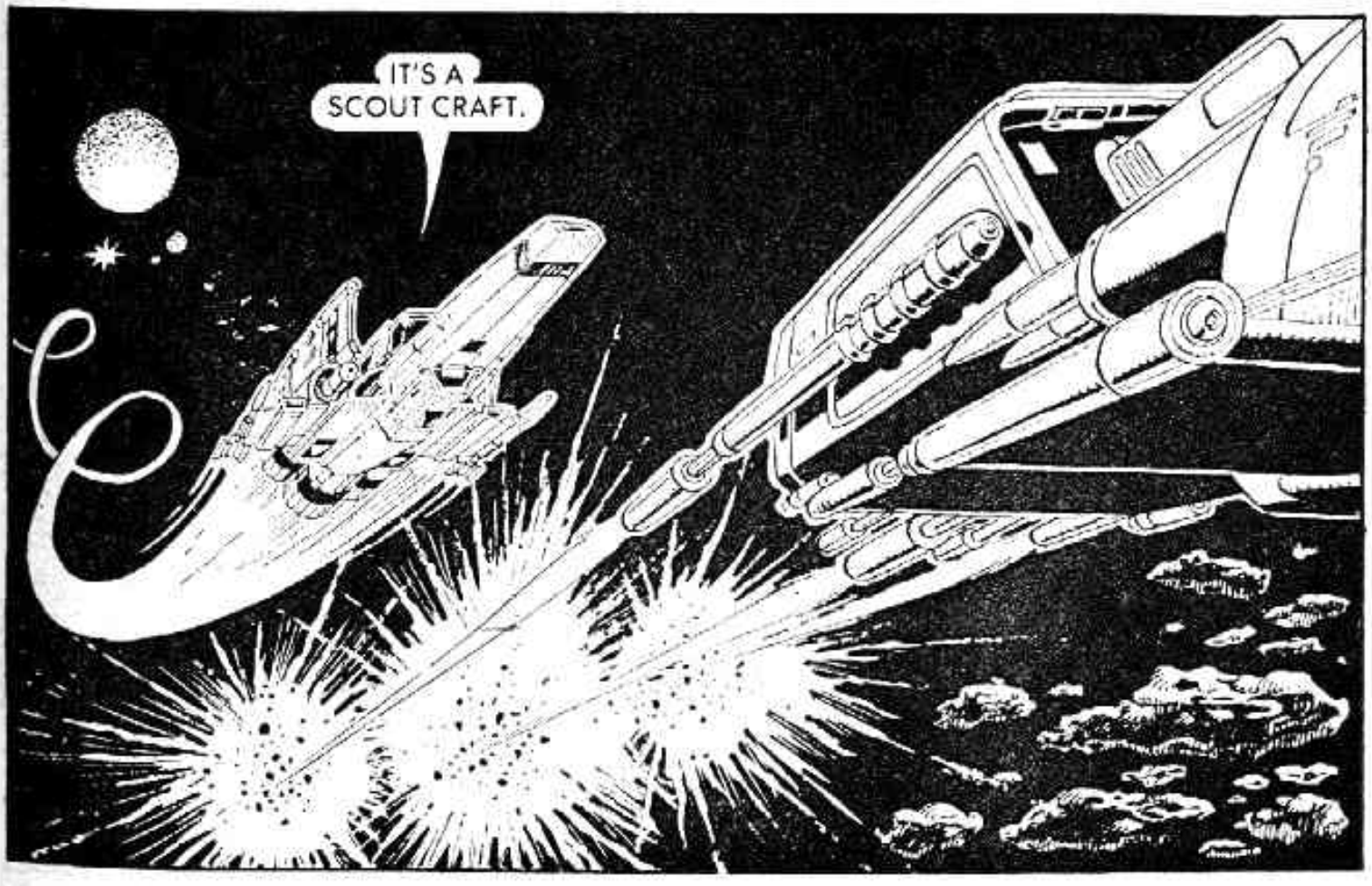
THE ROBOT REACHED A CRITICAL OVERLOAD LEVEL AND FAILED.

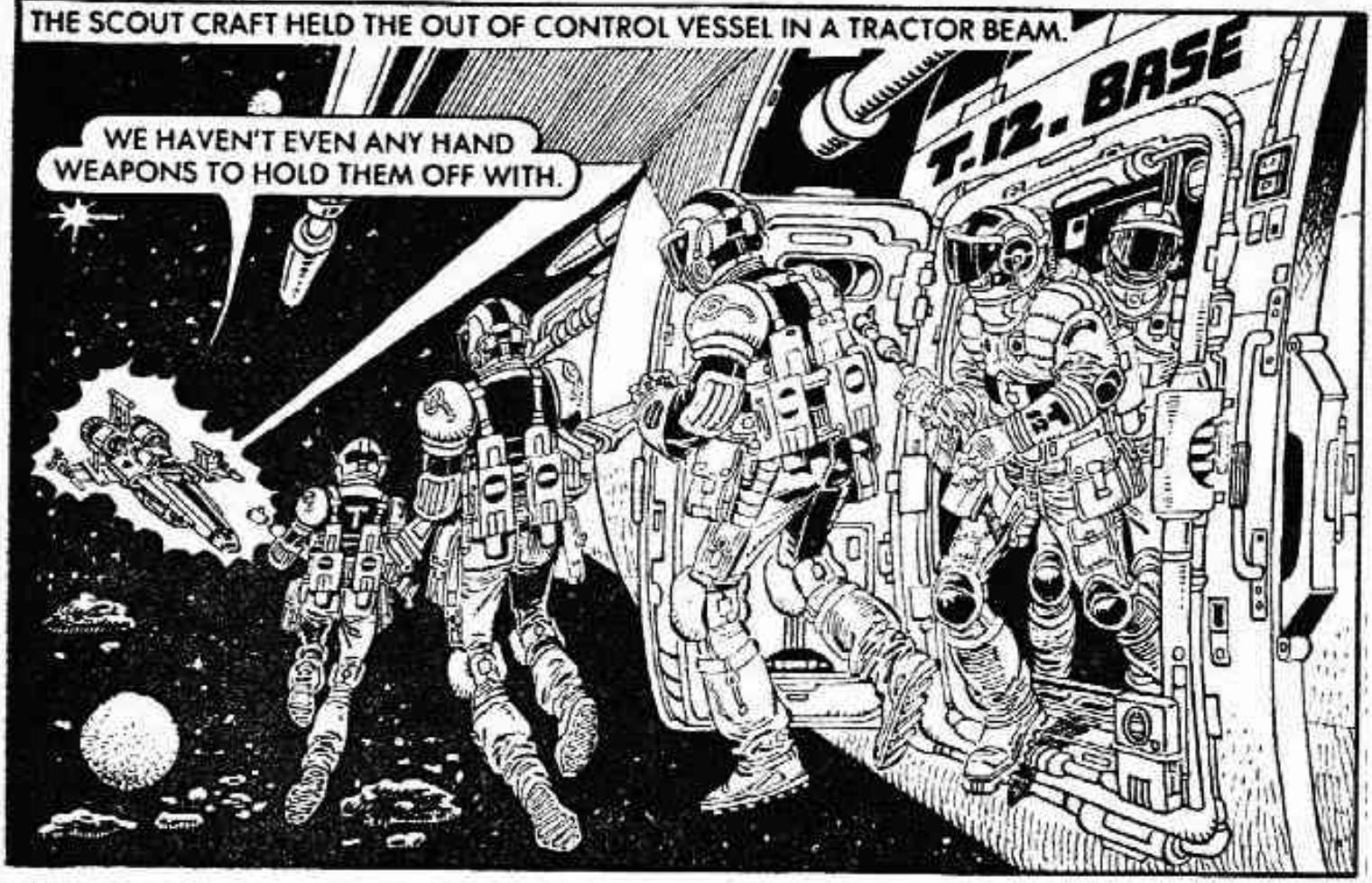



FIELDER TRIED A HIT AND MISS APPROACH TO SPACE PILOTING . . . AND MISSED.
YEOWWEE! WHATEVER I TOUCHED I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE.

WE'VE GOT TO FACE IT! WE'RE LOST AND OUT OF CONTROL IN DEEP SPACE.

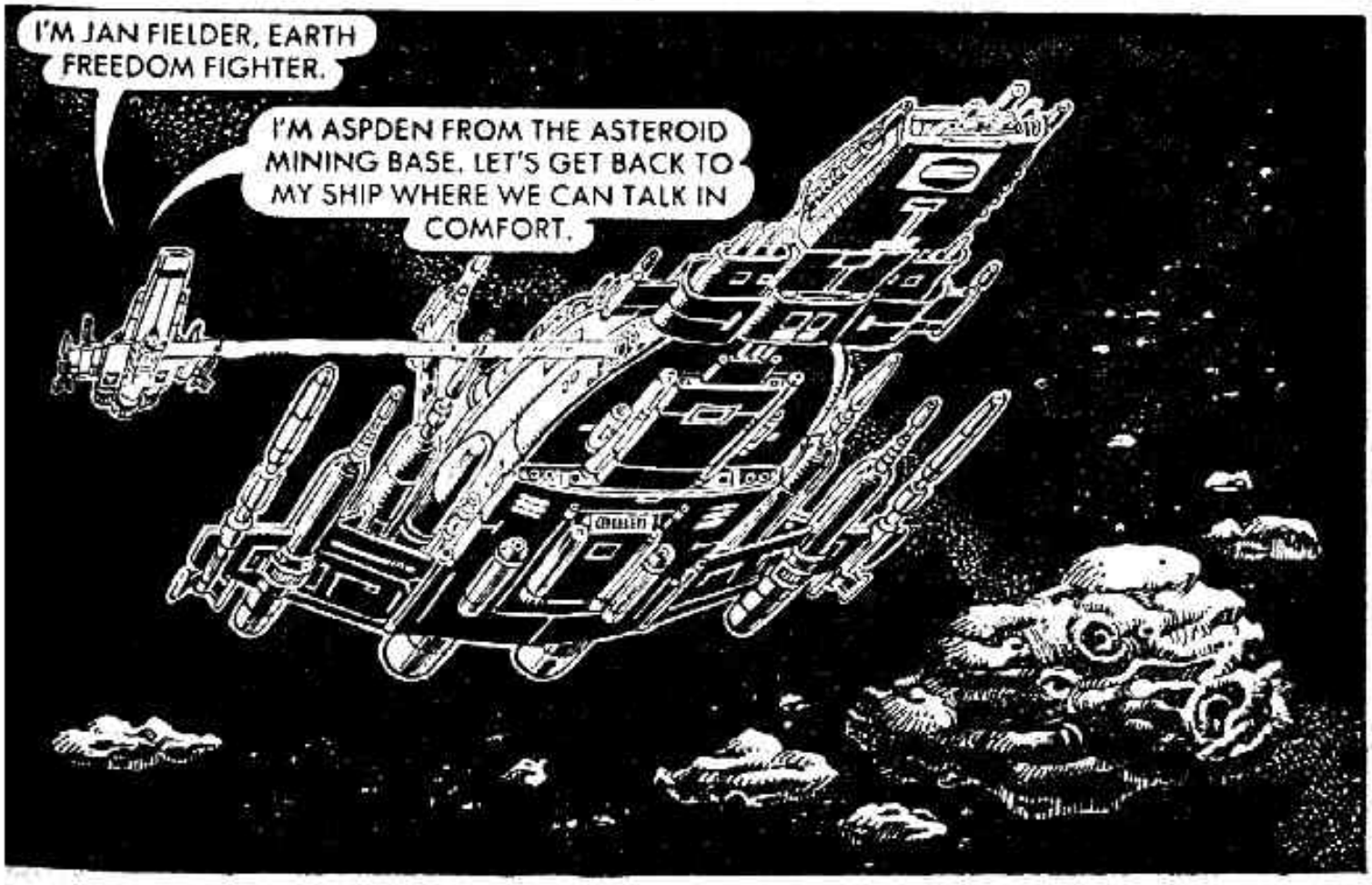
AFTER HOURS OF AIMLESS FLIGHT, FIELDER SPOTTED YET ANOTHER DANGER.
WE'VE GOT COMPANY.
T.12


IT'S A SCOUT CRAFT.


THE SCOUT CRAFT HELD THE OUT OF CONTROL VESSEL IN A TRACTOR BEAM.
WE HAVEN'T EVEN ANY HAND WEAPONS TO HOLD THEM OFF WITH.
T-12 - BASE

ARMOURED FIGURES ENTERED THE AIRLOCK.
EVEN THE STAFF HAS BEEN DRAINED OF ITS POWER.

DO YOUR WORST, THEN GO RUNNING TO YOUR OVERLORD TO COLLECT YOUR LITTLE MEDALS!
AN EARTHMAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN DEEP SPACE?
I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.


I'M JAN FIELDER, EARTH FREEDOM FIGHTER.
I'M ASPDEN FROM THE ASTEROID MINING BASE. LET'S GET BACK TO MY SHIP WHERE WE CAN TALK IN COMFORT.

FIELDER UPDATED THE MAN FROM THE ASTEROIDS WITH THE STORY OF HIS FIGHT AGAINST THE OVERLORD.
WHY HAVE THE ASTEROID MINERS NEVER TRIED TO RECAPTURE EARTH?
WE ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE THE ALIEN OVERLORD.
THERE WERE ONLY A FEW MINERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE ASTEROID BELT WHEN THE ALIENS FIRST CONQUERED EARTH, SINCE THEN IT HAS BEEN A STRUGGLE JUST TO SURVIVE.

OUR SETTLEMENTS ARE TOO SCATTERED FOR THE OVERLORD TO ATTACK EFFECTIVELY. THEY MAKE IDEAL BASES HOWEVER, FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH EXPEDITIONS AGAINST THE ALIEN TRANSPORTERS. YOU " NATIVES " WOULDN'T KNOW THAT THE OVERLORD FREQUENTLY HAS HIS SUPPLY LINE TAMPERED WITH.

IF YOU CAN SUPPLY MY MEN BACK ON EARTH WITH WEAPONS, WE CAN DO ALL THE FIGHTING THAT'S NEEDED FOR LIBERATION.
WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT! WE'LL GET YOU THE WEAPONS THAT ARE BEING TRANSPORTED TO THE OVERLORD FROM HIS IMPERIAL MASTERS.

AN ATTACK PLAN WAS DEVISED USING BOTH THE ASTEROID MINER'S SHIP AND THE CAPTURED ALIEN FIGHTER.
WE'VE CAPTURED ENOUGH SHIPS IN THE PAST TO KNOW HOW THE ALIEN CONTROL SYSTEM WORKS.
WE'VE GOT A SIGHTING ON THE LONG DISTANCE SCANNER! SHE'S ALL YOURS NOW.
I'M USING CAPTURED CODES TO IDENTIFY OURSELVES AS AN ESCORT.

SOMETHING'S WRONG! THEY'RE FIRING AT US — AND THEY ONLY MISSED BY A FRACTION.

THE OVERLORD WARNED US YOU'D STOLEN ONE OF HIS SHIPS, SCUM. HE'S PROMISED US PROMOTION IF WE BLAST YOU INTO PARTICLES!
TAKE AVOIDING ACTION AND FAST.

ASPDEN THREW THE CRAFT INTO A SERIES OF SPINS AND CURVES —

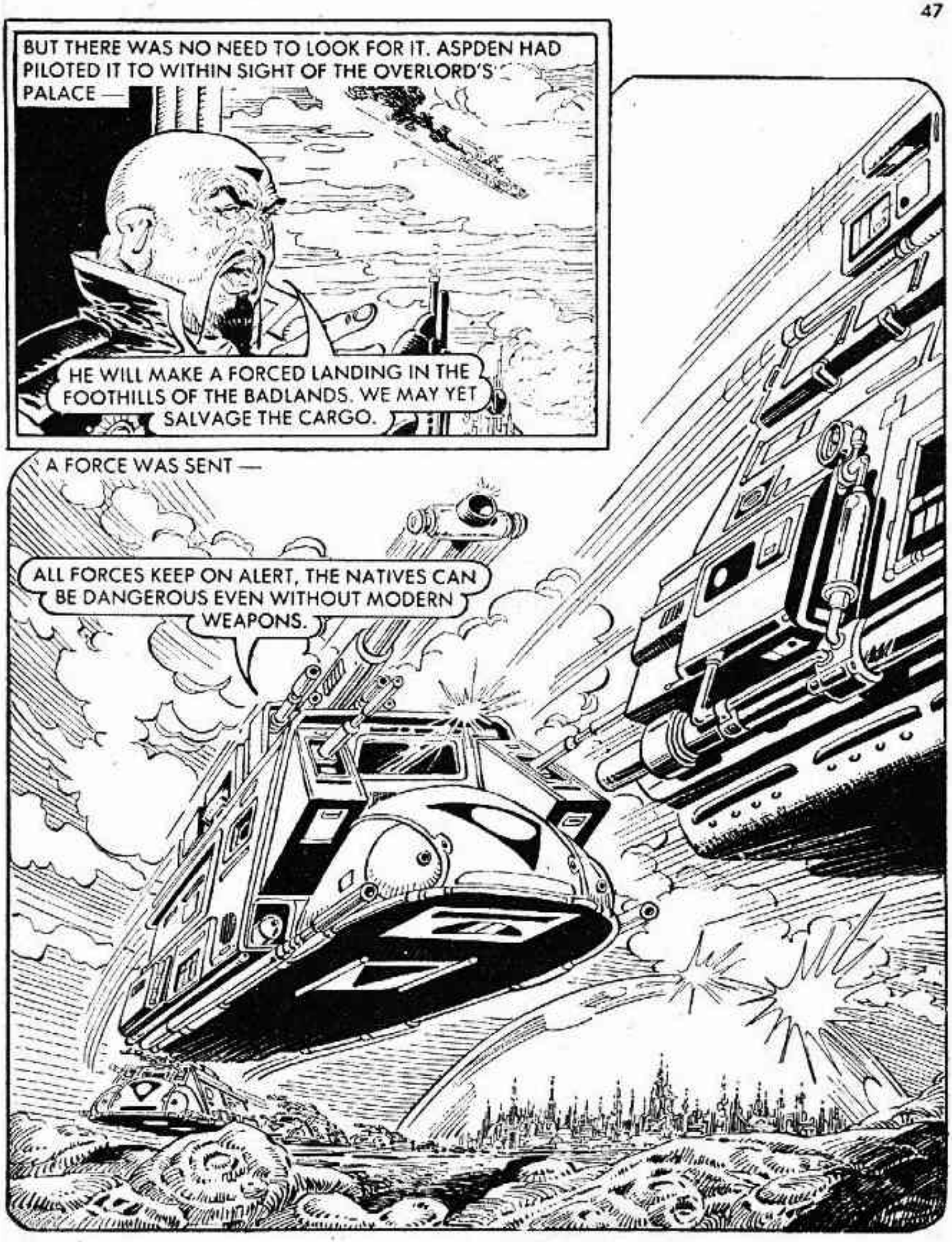
ASPDEN USED ALL HIS PILOTING SKILLS TO KEEP OUT OF RANGE OF THE ALIEN'S WEAPONS, WHILST ALL THE TIME LEADING THE TRANSPORTER INTO A TRAP.
THEY'VE TAKEN THE BAIT. OUR FIRE-POWER SHOULD OUTGUN THE ALIEN.

THE EARTHMEN WERE ABLE TO PICK TARGETS THAT DISABLED THE ALIEN WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE CARGO THEY SO DESPERATELY NEEDED.
THAT'S HIS LAST BEAM-PROJECTOR GONE! HE'S GOT A CHOICE OF SURRENDERING OR FACING A BOARDING PARTY.

THE ALIEN CHOSE TO SURRENDER —
WE'LL SHIP THE ALIENS OFF TO AN ASTEROID AS PRISONERS OF WAR, THEN TAKE THE TRANSPORTER AND ITS WHOLE CARGO DOWN TO YOUR FREEDOM FORCE.

ASPDEN PILOTED THE BADLY DAMAGED CRAFT INTO EARTHSPACE —
WE WERE JAMMING THE ALIEN'S TRANSMIT FREQUENCY DURING THE FIGHT, SO THE OVERLORD IS TOTALLY IGNORANT OF WHAT'S ABOUT TO HIT HIM.

THE ALIEN OVERLORD WAS ANGRY AT THE LATEST SETBACK —
SIRE, WE HAVE LOST TRANSMIT CONTACT WITH THE IMPERIAL TRANSPORTER.
WHAT? I NEED THAT CARGO TO RE-EQUIP MY FORCES. FIND IT!

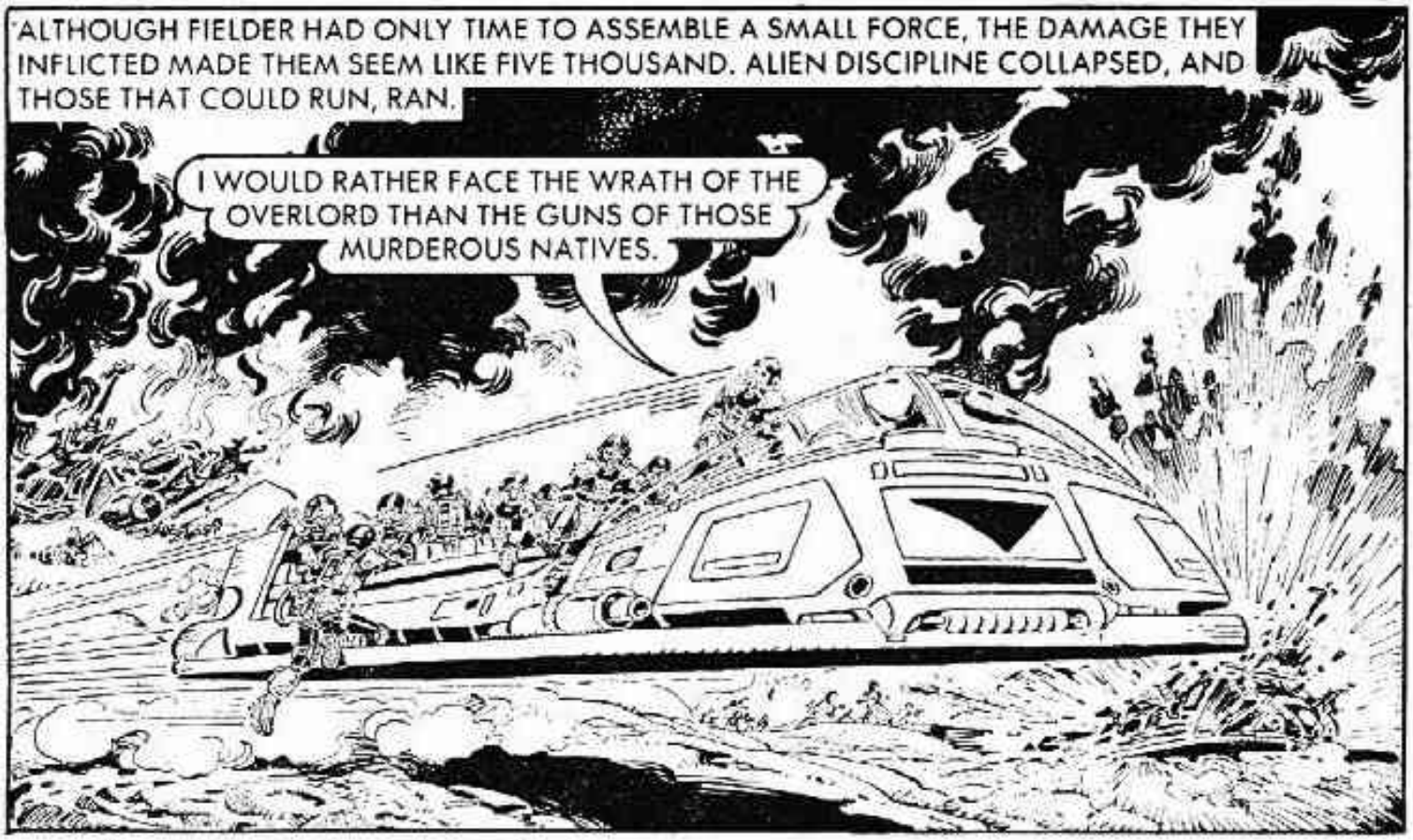

BUT THERE WAS NO NEED TO LOOK FOR IT. ASPDEN HAD PILOTED IT TO WITHIN SIGHT OF THE OVERLORD'S PALACE —
HE WILL MAKE A FORCED LANDING IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE BADLANDS. WE MAY YET SALVAGE THE CARGO.
A FORCE WAS SENT —
ALL FORCES KEEP ON ALERT, THE NATIVES CAN BE DANGEROUS EVEN WITHOUT MODERN WEAPONS.

WE ARE IN LUCK, THE TRANSPORTER SURVIVED TOUCHDOWN. THE TRUCKS WILL GO TO THE CARGO HATCHES WHILE WE ESTABLISH A DEFENSIVE PERIMETER IN CASE OF NATIVE ATTACK.
ALL THE HATCHES ARE LOCKED! LUCKILY THE CARGO HOLD DOORS HAVE EXTERNAL OPENING CONTROLS.

THE HATCH SWUNG OPEN TO REVEAL A CAREFULLY PLANNED AMBUSH—
TAKE AS MANY OF THEM OUT AS YOU CAN WHILE WE'VE GOT SURPRISE ON OUR SIDE.

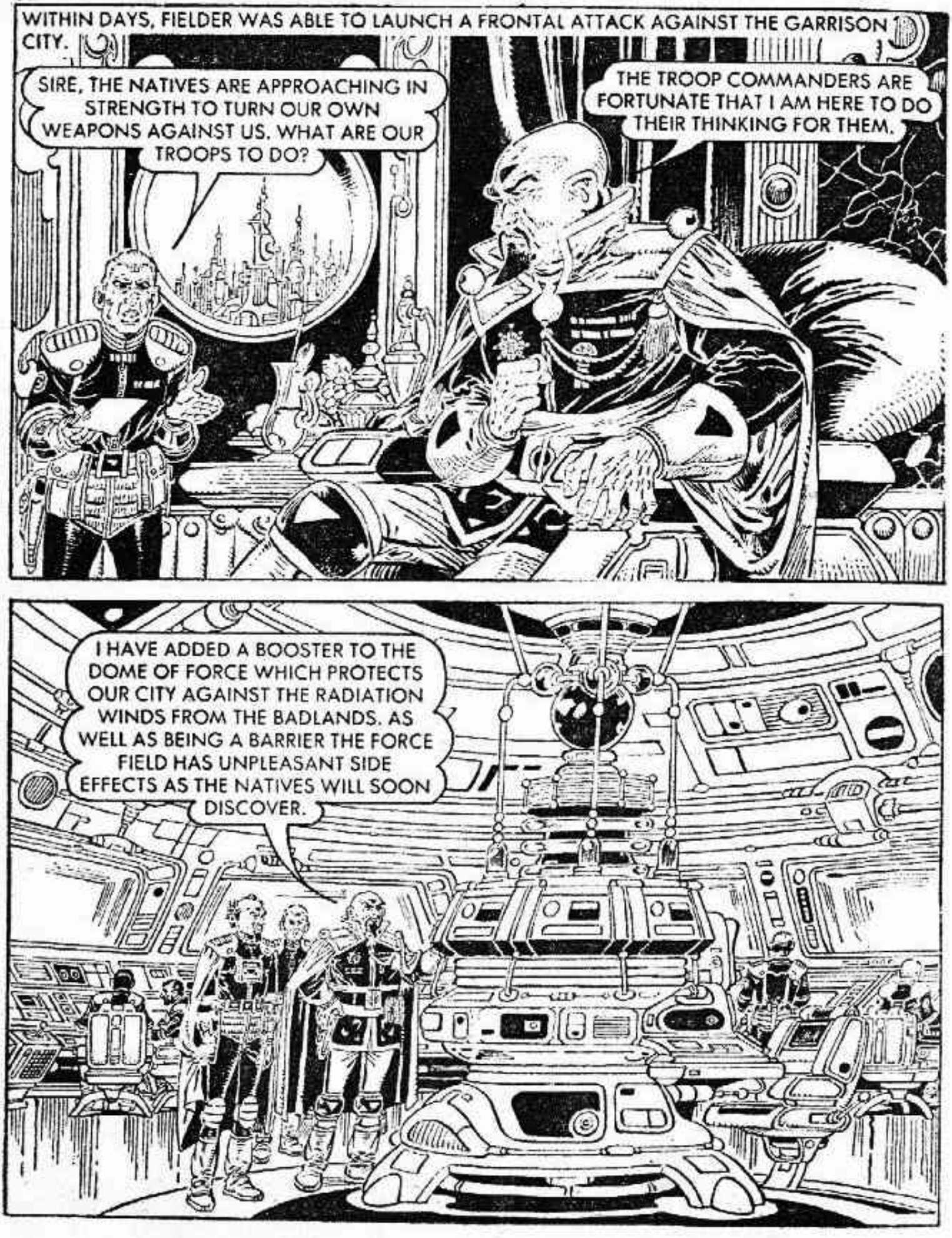
THE ALIEN FORCE NEVER REALLY RECOVERED FROM THE INITIAL SURPRISE OF THE AMBUSH.

THE CAREFULLY ARRANGED DEFENSIVE PERIMETER WAS TAKEN FROM THE REAR BEFORE IT HAD TIME TO REGROUP.


ALTHOUGH FIELDER HAD ONLY TIME TO ASSEMBLE A SMALL FORCE, THE DAMAGE THEY INFLICTED MADE THEM SEEM LIKE FIVE THOUSAND. ALIEN DISCIPLINE COLLAPSED, AND THOSE THAT COULD RUN, RAN.
I WOULD RATHER FACE THE WRATH OF THE OVERLORD THAN THE GUNS OF THOSE MURDEROUS NATIVES.

WE'VE GOT THE ALIENS ON THE RUN. AS SOON AS WE CAN MUSTER OUR TOTAL MANPOWER, WE'LL FOLLOW UP WITH AN ATTACK ON THE GARRISON CITY ITSELF.

THE SURVIVORS LIMPED INTO THE GARRISON CITY WITH TALES OF OVERWHELMING ODDS, WHICH DEMORALISED THEIR COMPANIONS. RUMOURS OF A SHORTAGE OF AMMUNITION ALSO ADDED TO THE GLOOM.
MY FORCES ARE IN NO FIT STATE TO ATTACK ANYBODY, BUT THE CITY DEFENCES ARE STILL INTACT.


WITHIN DAYS, FIELDER WAS ABLE TO LAUNCH A FRONTAL ATTACK AGAINST THE GARRISON CITY.
SIRE, THE NATIVES ARE APPROACHING IN STRENGTH TO TURN OUR OWN WEAPONS AGAINST US. WHAT ARE OUR TROOPS TO DO?
THE TROOP COMMANDERS ARE FORTUNATE THAT I AM HERE TO DO THEIR THINKING FOR THEM.
I HAVE ADDED A BOOSTER TO THE DOME OF FORCE WHICH PROTECTS OUR CITY AGAINST THE RADIATION WINDS FROM THE BADLANDS. AS WELL AS BEING A BARRIER THE FORCE FIELD HAS UNPLEASANT SIDE EFFECTS AS THE NATIVES WILL SOON DISCOVER.

OUTSIDE THE CITY—
THE FIRST WAVE SHOULD BREACH THE WALL.
WE ARE ADVANCING TOO EASILY! THE OVERLORD HASN'T FIRED ONE SHOT AGAINST US— WHY?

THE LEADING FREEDOM FIGHTERS HIT THE UNSEEN BARRIER, AND THE IONISED PLASMA OF THE FORCE FIELD DISTURBED THEIR BRAINS.
SOMETHING SCREAMS INSIDE MY HEAD!
THE ALIENS HAVE TURNED THE VERY AIR AGAINST US!

THE OVERLORD USED HIS LIMITED AMMUNITION SPARINGLY, TO CREATE FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY RATHER THAN ACHIEVE DESTRUCTION.

FIELDER HAD NO OPTION BUT TO ORDER A RETREAT TO DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.
IT'S STALEMATE! OUR STRENGTH AND NUMBERS ARE TOO GREAT FOR THE OVERLORD TO DESTROY, BUT WE CAN'T GET INSIDE THE CITY.

THE BARRIER MUST THIN OUT HIGHER UP TO ALLOW THE OVERLORD'S CRAFT TO GET OUT AND ATTACK. CAN YOU GET AIR POWER, TO HELP US BREAK IN?
NO. ALL OUR CRAFT ARE SPACESHIPS WHICH WOULD BE OUT-MANOEUVRED BY AIRCRAFT BEFORE THEY HAD A CHANCE TO ATTACK THE CITY. BUT IF WE CAN'T GO IN FROM ABOVE, I THINK WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE FROM BELOW.

ASPDEN PRODUCED A SET OF ANCIENT MINING MAPS—
WE USED TO MINE HERE, AND TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS WITH OLD SEAMS WE KEPT MAPS. THE GARRISON CITY STANDS OVER AN UNDERGROUND RAILWAY SYSTEM. THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS LEVELLED THE BUILDINGS, BUT THE TUNNELS SURVIVED.
ANYTHING'S GOT TO BE WORTH A TRY. LET'S LOOK FOR THE NEAREST ENTRANCE TO THE SYSTEM.

AFTER A DETAILED SEARCH OF THE GROUND, THE TWO FREEDOM FIGHTERS FINALLY FOUND A WAY INTO THE OLD MINING RAILWAY SYSTEM.
UBC
AS WELL AS BEING ARMED TO THE TEETH, WE'LL NEED RESPIRATORS.

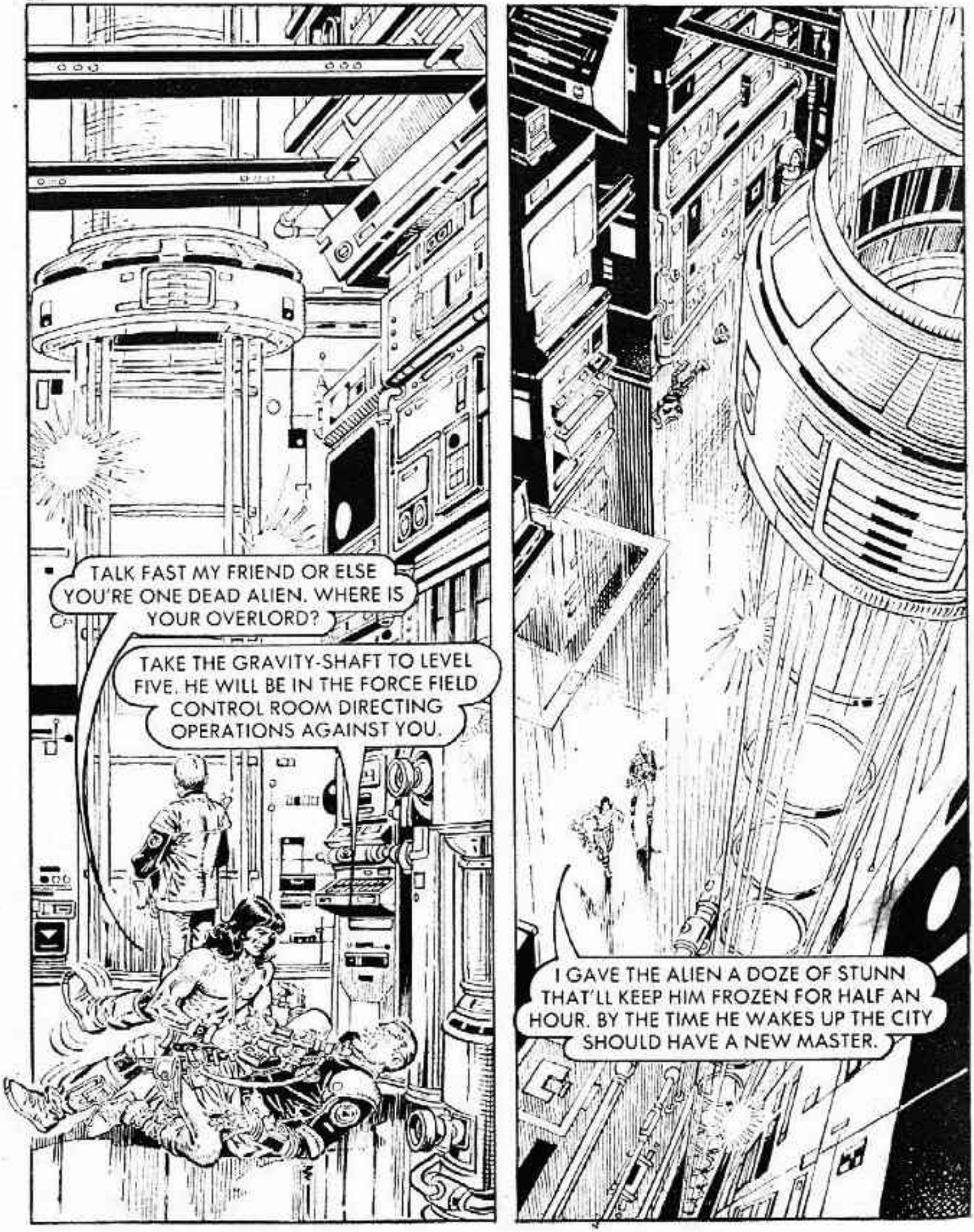
THE ROUTE WAS FAR FROM EASY—
ANOTHER ROCKFALL.
THAT BRANCH LINE BACK ON THE LEFT MIGHT TAKE US ROUND IT.

EVENTUALLY, AFTER NUMEROUS TWISTS, TURNS AND RETRACED STEPS, THEY WERE UNDER THE CITY.
ACCORDING TO THE MAP WE'RE NOW DIRECTLY UNDER THE OVERLORD'S PALACE.
AND THE AIR'S BREATHABLE, THAT MEANS THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY OUT. LET'S GO AND LOOK FOR IT.

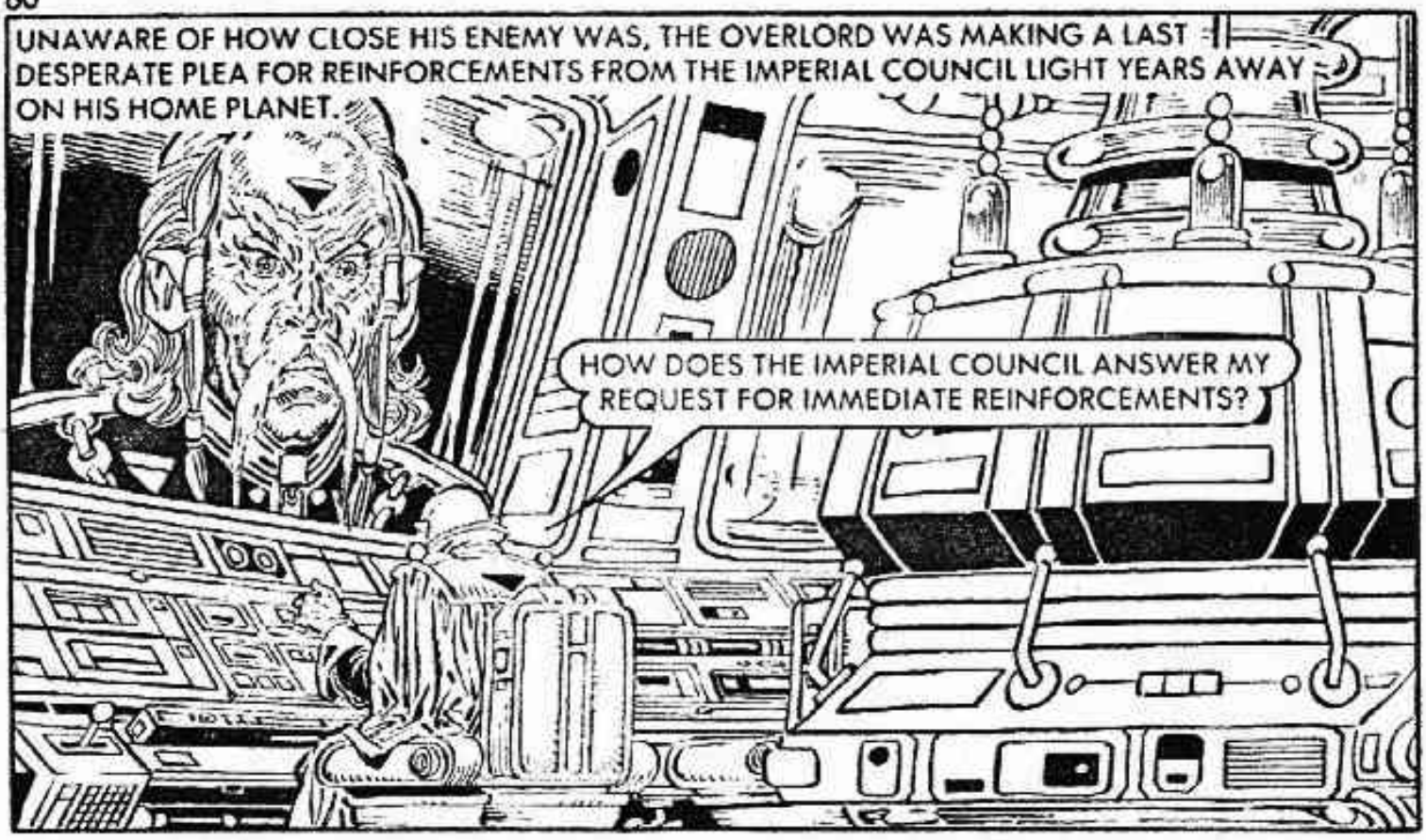
THAT'S NEW MASONRY BLOCKING THE WAY, WE'RE GETTING EVER NEARER TO THE OVERLORD.

FIELDER'S THERMAL BLASTER MELTED THE STONE—

FIELDER OVERPOWERED A GUARD.
COME ON, ASPDEN.


TALK FAST MY FRIEND OR ELSE YOU'RE ONE DEAD ALIEN. WHERE IS YOUR OVERLORD?
TAKE THE GRAVITY-SHAFT TO LEVEL FIVE. HE WILL BE IN THE FORCE FIELD CONTROL ROOM DIRECTING OPERATIONS AGAINST YOU.
I GAVE THE ALIEN A DOZE OF STUNN THAT'LL KEEP HIM FROZEN FOR HALF AN HOUR. BY THE TIME HE WAKES UP THE CITY SHOULD HAVE A NEW MASTER.

AT THE FIFTH LEVEL→
5
WHAT?
GOT THEM BEFORE THEY HAD TIME TO SHOUT ANY WARNING. IT'S SOFTLY SOFTLY ALL THE WAY NOW, UNTIL WE FIND WHICH ROOM THE OVERLORD'S IN.
5!


UNAWARE OF HOW CLOSE HIS ENEMY WAS, THE OVERLORD WAS MAKING A LAST DESPERATE PLEA FOR REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL LIGHT YEARS AWAY ON HIS HOME PLANET.
HOW DOES THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL ANSWER MY REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE REINFORCEMENTS?

WE CANNOT SEND YOU MORE— EARTH MUST BE HELD FOR IT IS VITAL TO OUR FUTURE PLANS.
THE TRANSMISSION WAS TERMINATED.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE STRANDED, OVERLORD.
YOU!

NATIVE BRAT, YOU HAVE ANNOYED ME FOR THE FINAL TIME.
MY SECOND SHOT WILL BE AIMED WITH MORE TIME AND CARE, AS BEFITS THE EXECUTION OF AN ENEMY LEADER.

SORRY I WAS LATE WITH THE COVERING FIRE.
WHERE ON EARTH DID HE GET THAT WRIST BLASTER?

YOU HAVE FAILED, EARTHMAN NATIVE. AS SENIOR OFFICER PRESENT, I TAKE OVER AS OVERLORD. YOU HAVE WON A FIGHT BUT YOU ARE FAR FROM WINNING THE BATTLE.

FIELDER MANAGED TO SLIP A NUCLONIC GRENADE FROM HIS POCKET ON THE BLIND SIDE OF THE ALIENS AND RELEASED THE SAFETY CATCH.
IF I'M GOING TO DIE I'LL TAKE SOME MORE ALIENS WITH ME.

IN FIVE SECONDS YOUR FORCE FIELD GENERATOR EXPLODES. AFTER THAT YOU'VE GOT A CHOICE BETWEEN MY FREEDOM FIGHTERS OR THE RADIO-ACTIVE WINDS.

THE GRENADE EXPLODED DEEP WITHIN THE GENERATOR'S MACHINERY, BUT THE BLAST FUNNELLED UP INTO THE CONTROL ROOM.

ALL IS LOST, THE FORCE FIELD IS DESTROYED. QUICK, FIND THE PROTECTIVE SUITS.
THE DEATH OF THE OVERLORD AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FORCE SHIELD LED TO THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE ALIEN GARRISON. THE TROOPS THOUGHT ONLY OF ESCAPE AND RAN IN DISORDER TOWARDS THEIR SPACE-CRAFT. THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS MEANWHILE SAW THAT THEIR HOUR OF VICTORY WAS AT HAND AND SEIZED THE INITIATIVE.
THE FORCE FIELD IS DOWN, FIELDER HAS DESTROYED THE VERY HEART OF THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLD. WHERE HE GOES, WE FOLLOW!

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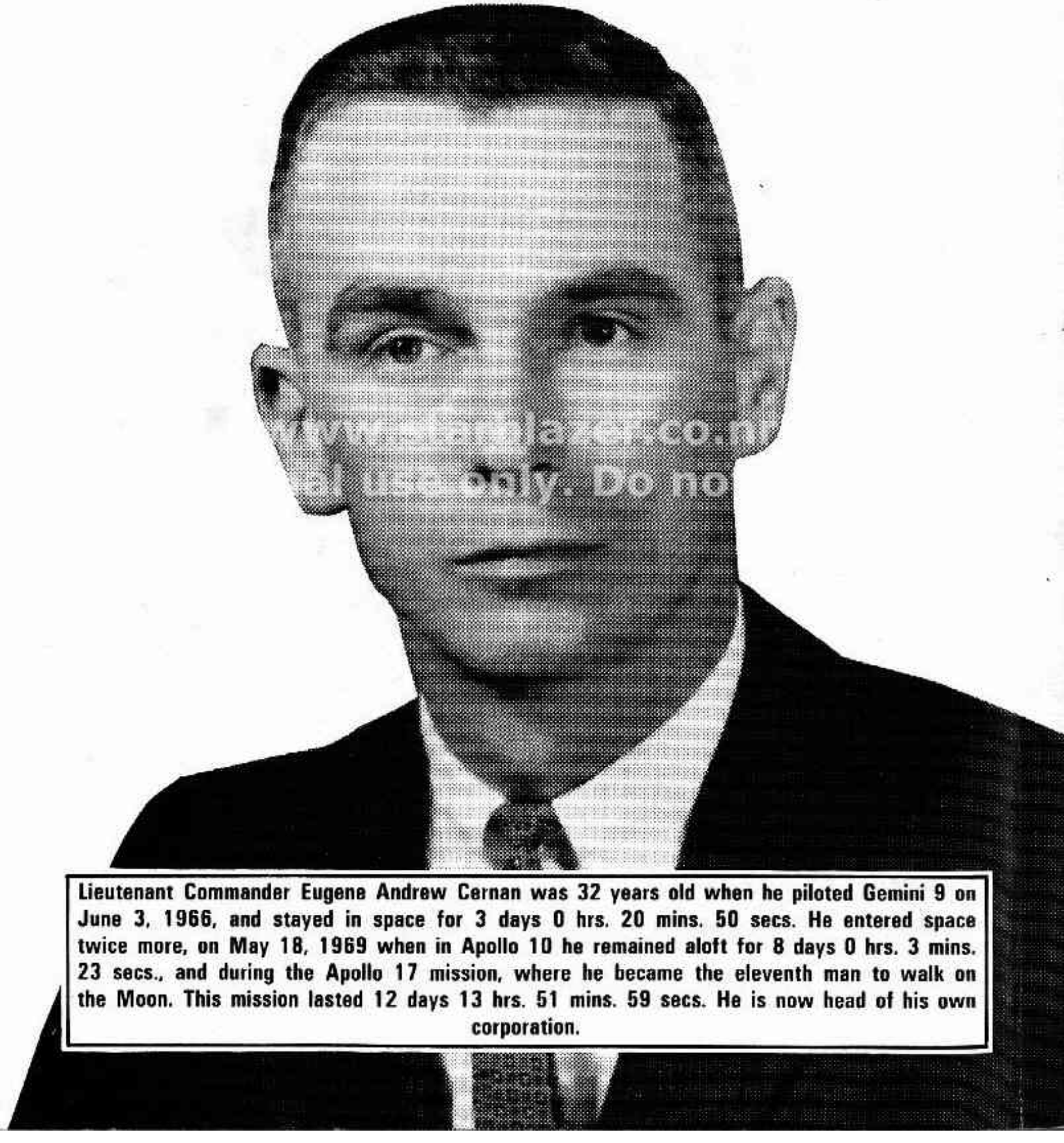

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Lieutenant Commander Eugene Andrew Cernan was 32 years old when he piloted Gemini 9 on June 3, 1966, and stayed in space for 3 days 0 hrs. 20 mins. 50 secs. He entered space twice more, on May 18, 1969 when in Apollo 10 he remained aloft for 8 days 0 hrs. 3 mins. 23 secs., and during the Apollo 17 mission, where he became the eleventh man to walk on the Moon. This mission lasted 12 days 13 hrs. 51 mins. 59 secs. He is now head of his own corporation.